

Message Text

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67

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 IO-14 SY-03 MC-02 ACDA-19 DRC-01 /157 W

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R 221507Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9499

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LOURENCO MARQUES

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

AMCONSUL DURBAN

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

UNCLAS PRETORIA 1182

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, PFOR, SF, RH, ZA

SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER SMITH DISCUSSES SECURITY ON TV

1. SPEAKING ON TELEVISED PANEL INTERVIEW PROGRAM IN RHODESIA
MARCH 21, PRIME MINISTER SMITH DISCUSSED RHODESIAN SECURITY
SITUATION, MAKING FOLLOWING POINTS ACCORDING TO SOUTH AFRICAN
NEWS MEDIA:

A. CONVENTIONAL WARFARE SITUATION "A LONG WAY OFF" AND,
ALTHOUGH "ANYTHING CAN HAPPEN," HE BELIEVED THAT "IN THE
FORESEEABLE FUTURE," PRESENT TYPE OF GUERRILLA WARFARE
WOULD CONTINUE. SMITH ALSO ASSERTED THAT RHODESIA CAN
"LOOK FORWARD CONFIDENTLY TO CONTINUING IMPROVEMENT."

B. STATING THAT IT "UNWISE TO DISCUSS IN PUBLIC FORUM THIS
SORT OF SUBJECT," SMITH DENIED THAT SAG HAD OFFERED TO REPLACE
ITS POLICE IN RHODESIA WITH TROOPS.

C. SAG, ACCORDING TO SMITH, BELIEVES SOUTH AFRICA AND
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RHODESIA IN "SAME BOAT" AND, WHEN WESTERN CIVILIZATION

AFFECTED," IT IS NECESSARY FOR US TO WORK TOGETHER".

D. SMITH EXPRESSED CONCERN "AT THE MANNER IN WHICH
TERRORISTS DO SEEM TO HAVE GAINED GROUND IN MOZAMBIQUE" AND
ADMITTED THAT DRAMATIC CHANGE OR COLLAPSE IN MOZAMBIQUE "WOULD
BE UNFORTUNATE FOR RHODESIA."

E. SMITH CLAIMED THAT FOLLOWING BORDER CLOSURE LAST YEAR,
ZAMBIAN GOVERNMENT OPERATING FROM ITS TERRITORY.ZAMBIA,
HOWEVER,STATED IT "IMPOSSIBLE FOR THEM TO GIVE A GUARANTEE
THAT THERE WOULD BE NO TERRORIST INCURSIONS,THAT THERE WOULD
BE NO TERRORISTS USING ZAMBIAN SOIL." SMITH HAD TO CONCEDE
IMPOSSIBILITY OF ANY COUNTRY GIVING "SUCH AN UNDERTAKING."
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